

ABSTRACT

A process and apparatus for producing stabilized compressed tampons are disclosed. The process includes the steps of providing a compressed tampon pledget and forcing gas through the compressed tampon. In some embodiments, the process may occur in the presence of moisture. The moisture can come from either the fibers of the material that comprises the tampon pledget and/or from the humidified gas or steam that is introduced. The process may include the steps of heating and/or humidifying the gas introduced during the process. The gas may be forced through the compressed tampon pledget intermittently during the process.